

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 685

By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to recognize Daniel C. "Dan" Wheeler on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Daniel C. Wheeler is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for twelve years as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Dan Wheeler will be celebrating the beginning of a much-deserved retirement on July 25, 2007; and

WHEREAS, a 1964 graduate of the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science, Mr. Wheeler began his illustrious career as a Sales Representative for Tennessee Farmers Insurance Companies; through the next several years, he adroitly served in a range of positions within the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (TFBF), including Regional Field Service Director, Assistant Director of Organization, Assistant to the President/Chief Lobbyist, and the Chief Administrative Officer; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the TFBF, Mr. Wheeler assisted in developing the strategy for the successful Question Three campaign that led to the amendment of the State constitution that taxes property under a classification system, developed the tobacco baling demonstration program that led to the more efficient method of marketing tobacco, and effectively voiced Farm Bureau's position on tax policies during the time when major tax reform was being considered, among many other accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Dan Wheeler assumed the duties of the 32nd Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, among his numerous achievements with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture are envisioning and chairing the first-ever Governor's Council on Agriculture and

Forestry, accomplishing stakeholder consensus on strategic initiatives that defined the vision and mission of the Department of Agriculture during the Sundquist administration, and accomplishing a major reorganization of the Department; and

WHEREAS, Dan Wheeler is an active and important part of his profession, having participated in numerous worthy organizations, including the Maury Regional Hospital Advisory Board and the Board of Directors of both First Farmers and Merchants National Bank and the Rehabilitation Corporation of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wheeler has also contributed his time and numerous talents to civic activities, including having served as President of Columbia Kiwanis Club, President and Drive Chairman of Maury County United Way, and Cub Scout Pack Leader; and

WHEREAS, Dan Wheeler is an active member of the First United Methodist Church, where he has served as a member of the Administrative Board, Chairman of the Council on Ministries, and Chairman of the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee; and

WHEREAS, other of the numerous esteemed positions Mr. Wheeler has held include serving as a member of the Governor's Council on Homeland Security, Tennessee Chairman of the Bush/Cheney Farm and Ranch Team, member of the Bush/Cheney Transition Team, member of the Governor's Cabinet, member of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, and member of the Tennessee Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mr. Wheeler has been honored with the UT Block and Bridle Club Distinguished Alumni Award, induction as a Charter Member of Alpha Gamma Rho—Alpha Kappa Chapter Hall of Fame, *Farmer Magazine's* Man of the Year in Service to Tennessee Agriculture Award, State Friend of 4-H Citation, Epsilon Sigma Phi's Friend of Extension Award, the FFA Honorary State Farmer Degree, and the Boy Scouts of America Long Rifle Award; and

WHEREAS, Dan Wheeler exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wheeler is most grateful for the love and support of his wife, Carol, a retired teacher; his sons, Jim and David; and his four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dan Wheeler has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Daniel C. Wheeler our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.